

# THE HEART OF A SOUL-WINNER

Rom. 1:14-16

**Text: Rom. 1:14-16, “*I am obligated...I am so eager...I am not ashamed....*”**

The three “*I am’s*” of the apostle Paul echo his heartbeat, reveal his mindset, and convey his sense of duty towards Christ and evangelism.

## **I am obligated**

Prior to his conversion, Paul, like all of us, had a debt of sin with God. Once freed from that debt of sin, through faith in Christ’s sacrifice as payment for sins, Paul found himself confronted with a new kind of debt.

Paul, firstly, had an obligation towards God because God had **divinely** appointed him *to* preach (Acts 20:24). And secondly, he had an obligation to unbelievers because of their spiritual need.

The second kind of obligation can be paralleled to that of someone whose house is on fire or who is drowning. The automatic reaction would be a sense of immediate obligation to do what one can to save them. Since all unbelievers are similarly headed to a spiritual death; it is our obligation as believers, to help rescue them from such a death, by sharing the gospel. Read also Rom. 13:8.

## **I am so eager**

As a sinner, Paul had been consumed with a hunger and a fiery zeal to persecute the saints. As a saint, he is now consumed with a hunger and fiery zeal to save the sinners. Such eagerness and audacity for soul-winning is exactly what the Church is in desperate need of, at this hour.

Sadly, too many Christians, today, tend to shelter themselves within the boundaries of church walls. They have lost all will to testify. Disinterested, self-satisfied, slothful and lean in spirit they are being kept ineffective by spiritual coldness. There is nothing like compromise, sin, and worldliness, to make one inoperative for Christ and evangelism.

## **I am not ashamed**

Paul’s supreme passion was to see men saved. He cared nothing for personal comfort, popularity or reputation. He offered no compromise of the gospel, because he knew it is the only power for salvation. The Greek word for power is “*dynamis*,” from it we get the English word dynamite. The dynamite of men is unto *destruction*. The dynamite of God is unto *deliverance*.

Luke 9:27 warns, “*If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory.*”

Paul exhorts his young protégé, Timothy not to be ashamed to testify about the Lord. “*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power, of love and self – discipline*” (2 Tim. 1:7-8).

Soli Deo Gloria